

Message Text

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44

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 IO-14 PM-07 DODE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /056 W

----- 041725

P R 051520Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO NSF REP ANTARCTICA PRIORITY

INFO NSF POLAR WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 4536

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 8831

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, AR, XV.

SUBJECT: TWIN OTTER FLIGHT TO ANTARCTICA.

REF: A) BUENOS AIRES 8301; B) YOUR MESSAGE OF 0314Z 24 NOV;

C) USARP NO. 79 OF 1053Z 2 DEC.

1. EMBASSY INFORMED BY AAF LATE YESTERDAY (4DEC.) THAT TWIN OTTER ARRIVED USHUAIA 4 DEC. AIRCRAFT SCHEDULED DEPART USHUAIA FOR MARAMBIO AT 0700 DEC. 5.

2. APPARENTLY, AFTER REACHING USHUAIA, PILOT REQUESTED CHANGE IN FLIGHT PLAN TO ENABLE HIM TO LAND AND REFUEL AT MARAMBIO. AAF AGREED EVEN THOUGH THEY HAD BEEN INFORMED BY EMBASSY AND BY NSF DIRECTLY THAT MARAMBIO WOULD BE AN ALTERNATE STRIP IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY ON SOUTHBOUND FLIGHT.

3. ALTHOUGH EXCELLENT RELATIONSHIPS EXIST BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND NSF ON ONE HAND AND THE AAF (SPECIFICALLY THE ANTARCTIC DEPARTMENT) ON THE OTHER, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL ILL EFFECTS OF THE OBVIOUS BREAKDOWN IN COMMUNICATIONS AND PLANNING FOR THE TWIN OTTER FLIGHT. THE COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEM WAS PROBABLY UNAVOIDABLE BUT WE ARE CHAGRINED THAT WITHIN A PERIOD OF WEEKS THE AAF HAS BEEN 1) REQUESTED TO PROVIDE LANDING CLEARANCE AND FUEL AT MARAMBIO FOR BOTH SOUTHBOUND AND NORTHBOUND FLIGHTS; 2) INFORMED THAT MARAMBIO WOULD BE AN ALTERNATE LANDING

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STRIP -- AND NOT EVEN THE PRINCIPAL ALTERNATE -- FOR BOTH

FLIGHTS; 3) INFORMED THAT NSF ACCEPTED AAF OFFER TO USE MARAMBIO AS SCHEDULED STOP AND REFUELING POINT ON NORTHBOUND TRIP NEXT FEBRUARY; AND 4) BACK TO ONE AGAIN.

4. THE IRRITATION THAT HAS BEEN CREATED IS LARGELY THE RESULT OF THE FACT THAT WE INSISTED ON USING USHUAIA AS STAGING POINT RATHER THAN THE LAST MINUTE REQUEST TO LAND AND REFUEL AT MARAMBIO ON FLIGHT SOUND. AAF HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN MORE THAN WILLING TO EXTEND ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING USE OF MARAMBIO FACILITIES, BUT THEY HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WANTED AIRCRAFT TO STAGE FROM RIO GALLEGOS OR RIO GRANDE IF FLIGHT WAS TO MARAMBIO. AS POINTED OUT IN REF. A, AAF CAN PROVIDE OPTIMUM SUPPORT TO AIRCRAFT ONLY IF IT FOLLOWS RIO GRANDE/MARAMBIO FLIGHT PATH.

5. WE DO NOT KNOW IF MESSAGES CONTAINED REFS. B AND C WERE DELIVERED TO PILOT.
KREBS

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Message Attributes

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